

COUNTY: CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** UPWARE NORTH PIT

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authorities: East Cambridgeshire District Council

National Grid Reference: TL 544728

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 154 **1:10,000:** TL 57 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1955 **Date of Last Revision:** 1971

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985 **Date of Last Revision:**

Area: 1.1 ha 2.7 ac

Other information: This is a nature reserve of the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Naturalists' Trust. The boundary has been modified at the 1985 re-notification and the adjacent quarry is scheduled as a separate site under the name 'Upware Bridge Pit North'.

Description and Reasons for Notification

The freshwater habitats hold one of the only two native British localities for the water germander *Teucrium scordium*, a plant listed in the British Red Data Book¹. In addition, the pits are of general value for the wetland communities represented and some other uncommon plants are recorded.

The site consists of a series of small flooded pits divided by bunds colonised by willow *Salix* spp. and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. The pools contain a large amount of emergent vegetation including stands of common reed *Phragmites communis* and greater pond sedge *Carex riparia*. Among some of the more uncommon species to be found are the great water dock *Rumex hydrolapathum* and the saw sedge *Cladium mariscus*.

¹ Perring, F.H. and Farrell, L. 1983. *British Red Data Books: 1 Vascular Plants* (2nd Edition). Lincoln, Royal Society for Nature Conservation.